

## Message Text

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DRAFTED BY AF/C:TRBUCHANAN:OSM

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S/S- MR. MOFFAT

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 015183 TOSEC 010076

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, AO, US

SUBJECT: UNITA PRESIDENT SAVIMBI'S CALL ON AMB. IN LUSAKA

REF: LUSAKA 154(NODIS)

1. WE CAN WELL APPRECIATE SAVIMBI'S FEELINGS OF ISOLATION, ALMOST DESPERATION, AS HE FACED WITH SOUTH AFRICAN WITHDRAWAL AND CONGRESSIONAL OPPOSITION TO MORE AID. HE IS OBVIOUSLY LOOKING FOR TWO FORMS OF ENCOURAGEMENT: A) PROMISE OF IMMEDIATE ADDITIONAL MILITARY AID, IF ONLY SOMETHING COSMETIC TO BOLSTER MORALE OF HIS FORCES; AND B) INDICATION THAT USSR IS PREPARED TO ENCOURAGE MPLA TO BROADEN BASE OF GOVERNMENT TO INCLUDE UNITA LEADERS.

2. WHAT WE TRY TO DO IN MILITARY FIELD, DEPENDS VERY MUCH ON YOUR OWN ASSESSMENT OF WHERE WE GO FROM HERE. IF YOU BELIEVE WE MUST MAKE SOLID TRY TO OBTAIN OVERT FUNDING FROM CONGRESS, THEN CAMPAIGN TO AFFECT CONGRESSIONAL OPINION, INCLUDING APPEALS FROM LEADERS LIKE KAUNDA AND SAVIMBI MIGHT BE HELPFUL. IN THIS SCENARIO, IT

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WOULD PRESUMABLY BE ESSENTIAL THAT FNLA/UNITA FORCES

CONTINUE TO SHOW MAXIMUM EVIDENCE OF RESISTANCE.  
SIMILARLY, YOU MAY BELIEVE THAT CONTINUED MAXIMUM  
RESISTANCE ON THE GROUND IS NECESSARY, AT LEAST FOR

SHORT PERIOD, TO ENHANCE YOUR PRESENT BARGAINING POSITION  
WITH SOVIETS. UNDER EITHER CONTINGENCY, WE WILL HAVE TO  
EXAMINE WHAT EMERGENCY MILITARY AID OF REAL OR  
COSMETIC VALUE MIGHT BE ARRANGED. WE WILL BE LOOKING  
AT THIS CONTINGENCY TODAY, BUT I AM NOT SANGUINE. BEST  
IMMEDIATE HOPE WOULD BE DISPATCH ONE OR MORE HELICOPTERS  
TO COUNTER 122MM ROCKETS. WE WILL ALSO CHECK TO SEE IF  
CREWS ARE ADEQUATELY TRAINED TO CARRY OUT FIRST MISSION.

3. ON OTHER HAND, IF IT APPEARS THAT THE SITUATION IS  
BECOMING UNTENABLE AND WE SHOULD LOOK BEYOND  
INSURGENCY TO SOME FORM OF ACCOMMODATION, THEN WE  
SHOULD EXAMINE HOW TO HANDLE OUR RELATIONS DURING  
DIFFICULT TRANSITION PERIOD WITH BOTH SAVIMBI AND OTHERS  
WHO HAVE STRONGLY SUPPORTED OUR POSITION AND LOOKED TO  
US FOR ASSISTANCE.

4. IN ABSENCE OF MILITARY AID, YOU MAY HAVE SOME STRAW  
IN THE WAY OF SOVIET ASSURANCE REGARDING THE FUTURE  
IN ANGOLA WHICH WE COULD PASS ON TO SAVIMBI, KAUNDA,  
AND MOBUTU TO BUCK THEM UP IN THIS DIFFICULT PERIOD.  
YOU MAY HAVE NOTED EMBASSY KINSHASA'S REPORT OF BULA  
PRESS INTERVIEW INDICATING THAT HE MAY BE ALREADY  
BEGINNING TO TRIM HIS SAILS. SISCO

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